October 18, 2005

Senator Tom Torlakson 2801 Concord Boulelvard Concord, California 94519

Dear Senator Torlakson:

On behalf of the residents in East Contra Costa County, I want to thank you for all your efforts to improve the safety of Vasco Road. Your effort to usher Senate Bill 3 through the legislature is much appreciated.

With the passage of the Federal Surface Transportation Bill, SAFETEA-LU, there will be more revenue coming to California than what was contemplated. This additional funding may create an opportunity to move forward on our mutual goal of improving Vasco Road.

The new transportation bill will increase the allocation for planning studies. Through your efforts with Senate Bill 802, Vasco Road is now designated as an inter-regional road, however, it is still a county road. It seems to me that the next logical step will be to request the California Transportation Commission to formally adopt this road into the State Highway System. To accomplish this goal, we will need funding to conduct a "route adoption study". Staff has estimated that this effort will cost \$500,000.

As you know, the Vasco Road Safety Task Force has been working with the County to identify the types of safety improvements that can be accomplished with different levels of funding. The Task Force is looking at a project to improve Vasco Road in the Brushy Creek area to a 4 lane road with a median barrier at a cost of \$12 million. Funding for the safety improvements can come from many sources. In the case of Vasco Road, the Inter-regional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) or the rural road safety program created by SAFETEA-LU are opportunities that we should pursue. We request you support our efforts to obtain grant funds for a safety project on Vasco Road.

If you have any question, please feel free to call me at (925) 820-8683.

Sincerely,

MARY N. PIEPHO County Supervisor, District III

CC: Vasco Road Safety Task Force Assemblyman Guy Houston Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla